

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01174 181609Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSA-01 SSM-05
ACDA-10 OMB-01 /094 W
-----182258 096483 /63

R 181547Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1849
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1174

RIYADH FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PINT SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR FEB 18

1. MEDIA GAVE HEAVY PLAY TO STORY THAT 244 IRAQIS MURDERED
BY REGIME. NEWSPAPERS SPLASHED ON THEIR FRONT PAGES TEXT OF
ALLEGED DECREE, ISSUED BY IRAQI RCC AND CONTAINING 244 NAMES,
WHICH PERMITTED RELATIVES OF VICTIMS TO COLLECT INHERITANCES
AND DRAW "RETIREMENT SALARIES" WITHOUT PRODUCING DEATH CERTI-
FICATES SINCE GROUP "WAS CONSIDERED DEAD AFTER DATE OF THEIR
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DISAPPEARANCE." STORIES CLAIMED GROUP RECRUITED IN 1971-72
BY IRAQI SECURITY SERVICES TO ELIMINATE OPPOSITION TO REGIME
IN NORTHERN IRAQ AND TO CARRY OUT ACTS OF SUBVERSION AND SABOTAGE
OUTSIDE COUNTRY. GROUP'S LEADERSHIP ALLEGEDLY CAME UNDER
SUSPICION RECENTLY AND ENTIRE GROUP RECALLED TO BAGHDAD WHERE
THEY WERE MURDERED AND BODIES "DISSOLVED IN ACID," ACCORDING
TO SYRIAN MEDIA. DECREE SAID TO HAVE RESULTED FROM NUMEROUS

INQUIRIES BY RELATIVES ABOUT THE FATE OF THEIR KIN. SANA
CHALLENGED IRAQI AUTHORITIES TO DENY THE "FACTS."

2. NUMBER OF EDITORIALS ATTACKED IRAQ, CHARGING THAT WILLING-
NESS TO GRANT BENEFITS WITHOUT DEATH CERTIFICATES CONSTITUTED
ADMISSION REGIME IMPLICATED IN THEIR DEATHS. COLUMNISTS
CLAIMED IRAQI AUTHORITIES TRYING TO BUY OFF RELATIVES, AND
CONCLUDED BY ASSERTING THAT THIS ACTION "WILL ONLY RETARD
SLIGHTLY JUDGMENT OF HISTORY AGAINST TIKRITI KILLERS."

3. EDITORIAL IN THAWRA CLAIMED ISRAEL WANTED TO GIVE IMPRES-
SION THAT IT HAD WORKED TO FACILITATE SUCCESS OF VANCE VISIT,
UNLIKE ITS ACTION DURING WALDHEIM TOUR. EDITORIAL ASKED
RHETORICALLY WHY SECRETARY HAD GONE TO ISRAEL--TO PERSUADE
IT TO ALTER ITS POSITION OR TO BACK ITS STANDS. COLUMN
OPTED FOR FORMER AND DECLARED THAT ISRAEL ONLY PRETENDING
TO FACILITATE VANCE MISSION WHILE IN REALITY OBSTRUCTING IT
WITH ITS ACTIONS, SUCH AS PROSPECTING FOR OIL IN SINAI AND
BUILDING SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED AREAS.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D770059-0320
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From: DAMASCUS
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Litigation History:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SOPN, SY
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